

AUGUST GIANT

(Prunus Salicina)

BACKGROUND OF THE NEW VARIETY

5 The present invention refers to a new variety of plum which will hereinafter be denominated as the 'August Giant' plum tree. The 'August Giant' is a yellow-red fleshed plum freestone fruit that is mature for harvesting and shipping during the August 28-30 period in a normal year in the San Joaquin Valley of Central California as a large fruit with red blush and
10 yellow flesh.

In the development of new commercial varieties, specific characteristics provide a premium on these fruit varieties that mature early or late in the growing season. However, in particular early varieties lack size, flavor and coloration on blush. Therefore in order for a fruit
15 to be a commercial success, it must be of good size, good color, and also have good holding/storage and shipping characteristics. In addition, the date of maturing must be different from other similar fruit. This new invention meets all of the aforementioned criteria and therefore would be of commercial appeal to the consumer.

ORIGIN AND ASEXUAL REPRODUCTION OF THE NEW VARIETY

20 The present invention (variety) was discovered by the inventor on his four acre plum planting of 'Mid Red' variety (Plant Patent 5744) which is located near Parlier, California in the San Joaquin Valley of Central California. The invention was discovered as a bud sport of 'Mid Red' in 1999. The new variety was asexually reproduced in the dormant season of 2000/2001 by bud grafting three trees on Nemaguard rootstock in a plum planting about one third of a mile
25 from the original planting. Another eight trees were grafted in the dormant season of 2001/2002 approximately 1-3/4 miles south of the original source orchard. The inventor carefully compared

the asexually reproduced trees with the parent sport including the fruit and found they are identical in all respects.

SUMMARY OF THE NEW VARIETY

The 'August Giant' plum tree is characterized by producing a large freestone fruit which
5 has very good blush coloration and is ripe for commercial harvesting or shipping around August
28-30 in a normal year in the San Joaquin Valley of Central California as a large fruit with red
blush and yellow flesh. The new variety is most similar to 'Mid Red' plum tree (Plant Patent
5744) from which it is a sport bud, but from which it is distinguishable in that it ripens
approximately seven (7) days after the 'Mid Red' variety. The fruit of this new variety is large,
10 with good flavor and good red color, which makes it greatly acceptable for the consumer.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The accompanying, a colored photograph, shows in three different views the bottom or
stem end of the fruit, the apex of the fruit, and the suture side of the fruit. In addition, at the
bottom of the photograph is a fruit cut in half displaying the pit well on the left and the pit in the
15 pit well on the right with a single pit in the middle and, finally, the foliage of the new variety of
plum tree.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Referring more specifically to the horticultural details of the new and distinct variety of
plum trees, the following descriptions have been observed under the ecological conditions
20 prevailing at the origin orchard which is located near Parlier, California in the San Joaquin
Valley of Central California. All major color designations are by reference to the Dictionary of
Color by Maerz and Paul, First Edition, published in 1930. Common colors are also employed.

TREE

Size: medium, for 3rd leaf tree

8-10 feet high

6-8 feet wide

5 Vigor: good

Shape: pyramid - upright

Productivity: very good for 3rd leaf tree with regular bearing

Chilling Requirements: normal for plum trees in the Central San Joaquin Valley of California

TRUNK

10 Size: medium - 14 ½ inches circumference, 12 inches above ground

Surface Texture: rough

Color Code: Near Wineberry (55-E-4)

Lenticels: many

BRANCHES

15 Size: medium, 6-8 inches in circumference

Angle of Branches: 52°

Color of Branches over 1 year old: Pigeon (55-A-3)

Color of Branches less than 1 year old: Rainette Green (21-K-4)

LEAVES

20 Size: medium-large

Length: 105 - 115 mm (4.13 - 4.53 inch)

Width: 44 - 58 mm (1.732 - 2.28 inch)

Shape: ovate

Margin: double serration

Glands: 2 reniform - small reddish brown

Stipules: 2 large - 10 mm (0.39 inch)

Color: Turtle Green (19-C-5)

Color: Upper surface - Chrome Green deep (24-H-12)

5 Lower surface - Spinach Green (22-H-7)

Petiole: Length: 11 - 15 mm (0.43 - 0.59 inch)

Diameter: 2 mm (0.08 inch)

Color: Rainette Green (21-K-4)

Midvein: Width: 1-½ mm (0.04 - 0.06 inch)

10 Color: Rainette Green (21-K-4)

FLOWERS

Flower Buds

Shape: conic

Size: length 5 mm (0.2 inch) average

15 Width: 3 - 5 mm (0.12 - 0.2 inch)

Calyx: 5 sepals

Color: Sea Green (19-K-6)

Flowers: generally showy type

Date of First Bloom: 10% - 12% by February 28; 100% by March 8

20 Flowers: small - in clusters of three to five

Diameter when fully opened: 22 mm average (0.87 inch)

Bloom: quantity - abundant

Petals: 5

Size: small

Length: 8 - 10 mm (0.31- 0.39 inch)

Width: 7 - 9 mm (0.28 - 0.35 inch)

Form: broadly ovate

Color: white

5 Claws: small - 1 mm (0.04 inch) truncate

Petal Margins: undulate - rounded at tip

Pedicel: 5 mm (0.2 inch) average

Color: Calliste Gr. (19-L-6)

Sepals: Color - Sea Green (19-K-6)

10 Stamen: 18 - 22

Filament: white

Anthers: small

Color: Yellow Ochre (11-L-7)

Pistil: shorter in length than stamens

15 Color: Sky Green (18-I-5)

FRUIT

Date of Maturity: August 28 - 30

Size: Large

Diameter of Axial Plane: 62 - 68 mm (2.44 - 2.68 inches)

20 Transverse in Suture Plane: 65 - 70 mm (2.56 - 2.76 inches)

Transverse at Right Angle to Suture Plane: 68 - 72 mm (2.68 - 2.83 inches)

Form: Nearly uniform

Nearly symmetrical

Ventral surface – smooth

Stem Cavity: Length: 16 - 18 mm (0.63 - 0.71 inch)

Width: 12 - 16 mm (0.47 - 0.63 inch)

Depth: 8 - 10 mm (0.31 - 0.39 inch)

Stem: Length: 8 - 11 mm (0.31 - 0.43 inch)

5 Width: 2 mm (0.08 inch)

Apex: slightly pointed

Pistil Pt.: noticeable

Skin: thickness normal for plum

Texture: firm

10 Color: Blush color - De'Medici (54-L-12)

Rubient (55-L-8)

Ground color - Lime Y (11-L-5)

Flesh color: Near skin - Chianti Antique Rube (6-L-6)

Remainder - Antique Gold (12-L-8)

15 Color at surface of cavity - Antique Gold / Golden Y (12-L-8)

Color of pit well - Peruvian Gold (13-L-11)

Pit Well: Length - 23 mm (0.91 inch)

Width - 17 mm (0.67 inch)

Depth: 6 - 7 mm (0.24 - 0.28 inch)

20 **STONE**

Freestone: fibers - few

Size: Length 23 mm (0.91 inch)

Width: 16 - 18 mm (0.63 - 0.71 inch)

Thickness: 10 mm (0.39 inch)

Form – ovate

Apex shape – somewhat rounded and somewhat pointed

Color – (dry) Mellow Gold (10-L-6)

Base – flattened

5 Sides – Ventral side winged

Dorsal side ridged from apex to base

Surface – slightly grooved at basal end

Tendency to Split – none observed

Use – fresh market

10 Keeping quality – excellent

Resistance to Disease – unknown

Harvest Date: August 28-30

Has not been sold

Variety has not been publicly used or exhibited

15 No reproductive parts have been given away

Name of New variety: 'August Giant'

The above description of this new variety of plum tree is based on the growing conditions prevalent in the Parlier area of the San Joaquin Valley of Central California; variations of the
20 usual magnitude, such as differences in maturity date and production, may be due to cultural practices including irrigation, fertilization, pruning, fruit thinning and primary climate changes.